

Written testimony of Kelley M. Moore of 280 High Hill Road Meriden, CT. 06450, Before the Connecticut General assembly Environment Committee, March 8, 2010.

Testimony to take action on:
SB 272-An Act Concerning Drunk Boating.

Dear Senator Meyer, Representative Roy and honorable members of the Environment Committee,

My name is Kelley M. Moore and I am a resident of Meriden CT as well as a motor boat owner, who resides for most of the summer at Pilots Point Marina in Westbrook CT. Today I am asking the committee to take action on House Bill 272.

In June of 2009, I became a boat owner. I made a responsible choice to complete the one day, 8 hour course and successfully receive the boaters' license. Simply put: Stated on page 50 of the 2009 CT Boaters Guide that is distributed and sponsored by the State of CT Department of Environmental Protection, under Boating Regulations/Boating Under the Influence it clearly states: "No person is to operate a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The penalties for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol or drugs in CT have increased. The laws for boating under the influence have been amended to mirror motor vehicle law."

Please take action to the contradictory minimal limitation to the 2 hour window to test for blood alcohol levels in individuals who have chosen not only to put my family at risk but to ignore that very demand put into print. If amending laws to mirror motor vehicle law, the length of travel time in a boat compared to a car has got to be taken into consideration. Leaving my home in Meriden to travel to Westbrook can be a 55 minute ride by car. Leaving from Portland CT to travel to Westbrook took us approximately 4 hours by boat.

Breaking the law by using any substance or alcohol while operating any water craft should be enough to prosecute anyone. Expanding the minimal 2 hour limit for blood alcohol testing would ensure proper accountability. Please stay consistent. Please send one vital message. Boaters will be held accountable when they ignore boating regulations.

I've heard it said at drug and alcohol prevention forums that "it's alcohol's job to mess up your head". If that it is true, by all behavioral choices made that result in tragedy, let it be your job, as the power you hold, to make each person accountable within the maximum amount of time for the poor and sometimes, unfortunate choice a boater makes to allow any substance, drugs or alcohol, to "mess up their head." Please choose to keep my family safe.

Thank you.

Kelley M. Moore